



# AROUND THE BASES

## NSA/USAF MENWITH HILL (near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

**Construction:** The major developments of the new entrance to Menwith Hill on the B6451 are almost finished.

The base is being completely enclosed (as we published in the last newsletter) by the construction of further weld mesh fencing (O'Connell Fencing) with coils of razor wire on top, new roads and more 'security' CCTV cameras. We are not sure what arrangements have been made with the local farmer who grazes sheep and cows on the outer fields of the base or how they will get in!

### Planning Applications since last newsletter:

**PA No: 6.90.354.CROWND** - Provision of two additional Footpaths for BX Center.

**PA No: 6.90.185.B.CROWND** - Construction of new Kennel Block and conversion of existing Kennel Block into ancillary office accommodation for Building 49.

**PA No: 6.90.170.D.CROWND** - Siting of 2 x Equipment Storage Containers to South of Building 11.

### Scott Ritter (former UN weapons inspector) at the CAAB demonstration on 4 July 2005:

**Tom Farrell:** George W Bush has spoken of 'all options on the table' regarding the Iranian nuclear programme. When might military action take place?

**Scott Ritter:** I know that they're looking at fall (autumn) 2005, that's the window they're looking at. In the same way that, before the Iraq war, I told people the date was 2002, and it was. In the spring of 2002, the Bush administration had set its date as October. But you had political realities; you had to bring the British in; they had to take a pause for diplomacy so it got pushed to March 2003. Whether or not the Bush administration will be able to move in the fall of 2005, I don't know.

The strategy is simple: to shift the nuclear weapons issue in Iran out of Vienna (Headquarters of the International Atomic Agency) to the Security Council; demand that the Security Council impose stringent economic sanctions; and when the Council

baulks, they have John Bolton (US Ambassador to the UN) stand up and say, "this organisation no longer counts, the United States is going for it unilaterally", and for Bush to make a move. *[extract from Village – interviewed by Tom Farrell 19-25 August 2005]*

**Arrests and Court:** Anni is waiting to hear the date of her appeal at Leeds Crown Court. The appeal would usually be heard at York Crown Court but there is no disabled access (it is a Listed building and we have tried for years to get adequate disabled access – all to no avail) so it will be heard in Leeds. This appeal arises from a conviction of 'aggravated trespass' s.69 (Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994) at Harrogate Magistrates' Court in May.

Lindis appealed five convictions and sentences (four convictions of 'obstruction of the highway' and one 'obstruction of an officer in the execution of his duty' in the case of the abortive ASBO application and electronic tagging and curfew in May). The appeal will be heard on 16 November for three days.

**Another arrest:** Lindis was arrested by Sergeant Harding on 26 July 2005 at the weekly CAAB demonstration at Menwith Hill. She was charged with alleged 'aggravated trespass' s.69 (CJPO Act 1994). Before being arrested she was reported to the High Court by Sergeant Harding for allegedly being in breach of her permanent injunction. No bail conditions were imposed. She has already had to ask for an adjournment when a pre-trial review was to be heard because the Crown Prosecution Service failed to supply documents and CCTV video of the incident. The case revolves around the issue of the 'yellow line' once again and the use of this law by the MDPA.

Two people at this demonstration were issued with a s.69 'warning notice' for allegedly being just over the 'yellow line'.

**'Yellow line' saga:** On 19 August Dave Bevan won his Appeal at York Crown Court against conviction and sentence for an alleged 'aggravated trespass' imposed by Harrogate Magistrates' Court. His case was heard before District Judge Hoffman.

**The MDPA have now temporarily conceded that the 'yellow line' painted on the ground across the Main entrance does have a 3 foot margin of error and are no longer warning or arresting people for being up to 18 inches over it. Until now they have ignored the 18 inch ruling, which was made by District Judge Prowse in March 2003 in an alleged 'aggravated trespass' case against Lindis**

**and Anni. The MDPA say they will abide by the ruling ‘until the matter is resolved by the courts’.** The situation now is somewhat confused and should be interesting when the legality of the ‘yellow line’ is challenged in court.

**Terrorist Act 2000 ‘stop and search’:** Despite making a complaint because of a previous incident when Lindis was again ‘stopped and searched’ around Menwith Hill by North Yorkshire Police., there has been yet another incident. This time she is to meet Barry Honeysett (Superintendent in charge of Anti-terrorism) to discuss the abuse of this Act by his officers and also to discuss Force policy.

## **‘RAF’ FYLINGDALES (near Pickering, North Yorkshire)**

**Correspondence:** Lindis has written to Squadron Leader Phil Cox (RAF Liaison Officer - RAFLO) concerning the absence of Military byelaws notices round the base. There are however notices to say that byelaws are in force but these have no map of the ‘restricted area’ or details of possible offences. This has been an on-going struggle over years and the issue is being picked up again because of no action by the RAFLO.

Questions about Missile Defense were also raised in the correspondence.

### **Planning Applications since last newsletter:**

**PA No: NYM2005/627** - Construction of 8 x wildlife ponds (at back of site)

## **USAF LAKENHEATH (near Brandon, Suffolk)**

**New Mission Support leader:** Brig. Gen. Robert P. Steel, 48th Fighter Wing commander welcomed Team Liberty’s newest mission support group leader Col. Amanda W. Gladney. She accepted command of the 48th Mission Support Group from Col. Neal B. McElhannon at USAF Lakenheath during a ceremony on 10 August 2005.

**Be ready, be prepared:** Our Liberty Wing is fortunate enough to be the tip of the spear when it comes to Air Expeditionary Force deployments. Hundreds of our Team Liberty members have already deployed in support of Operations IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM and more are scheduled to leave over the next several months.

Supporting our combatant commanders is one of our top priorities, and we do this very well. In today’s climate of change and diversity, we are tasked to put forth maximum effort to provide fully trained and

ready personnel to assist in Air Force and Department of Defense missions. Achieving this monumental task is no easy feat. We must maintain the utmost vigilance and attention to detail as we send our troops out on AEF rotations.

Commanders and supervisors must be engaged with their Airmen throughout the deployment process to ensure they are ready physically, mentally, spiritually and financially before they deploy. Team Liberty offers outstanding resources for our deploying members— from our first-rate family support center, chaplains and unit deployment monitors to our legal advisors, finance experts or our support staff members. These agencies are available to help members as they prepare for their AEF rotation.

Training records, mobility folders and bags, and personal issues need to be impeccable before each of us, and each one of our Airmen, head out the door. This ensures every Airman can focus on the mission at hand. Worries about finances or problems at home, difficulties in-processing at the gaining station or incomplete records detract from your ability to maintain focus while deployed.

Everyone needs to take the months allotted before your deployment window to prepare fully — whether you received notification of a deployment tasking or not. We need to be focused and ready to provide top-notch support to our forces who serve our country. Making sure every individual is trained and ready is an absolute necessity when it comes to supporting our AEF culture. Prepare now. [*Brig. Robert P Steele – Jet 48 19.08.2005*]

**USAF/RAF Excalibur training exercise:** Aircraft from the United States Air Force and the Royal Air Force joined forces for a training exercise here Aug. 17 through 19.

Excalibur, a multi-nation bombing competition, provided an opportunity for aircrew members from the two nations to test their skills and pit their wits against each other.

Competitions like Excalibur not only allow us to practice with our equipment, but they allow us to test our procedures and leadership skills,” said Brig. Gen. Robert P. Steel, 48th Fighter Wing commander. “It is events like these that help us hone our skills, our lines of communication and our tactical abilities.”

Excalibur is designed to enhance esprit de corps, not only among USAFE squadrons, but on an international scale as well. The competition, pitted the talents of pilots from the 492nd and 494th Fighter Squadrons, RAF Lakenheath, the 22nd, 23rd

and 81st FS, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, the 510th and 555th FS, Aviano Air Base, Italy, and Royal Air Force pilots assigned to RAF Marham and RAF Coltishall.

“This type of event builds unity and pride in our squadron, group and wing organizations,” said Capt. Rich "Shredder" Carver, 48th Operations Support Squadron weapons assistant chief. “These competitions give us a chance to interact with other USAFE units as well as NATO units.”

Liberty Wing F-15E Strike Eagles, F-16 Falcons from Spangdahlem AB and Aviano AB and RAF GR-3 Jaguar and GR-4 Tornado fighter aircraft were flown during the competition. Although each team's aircraft had different capabilities, the aim was to pit pilot against pilot.

These competitions test proficiencies in basic core competencies which are and will be employed down range,” said Captain Carver.

Crews were judged on how well they dropped BDU-33 bombs on specific targets from defined altitudes, speeds and angles. Competitors were judged on their accuracy and how well they followed set restrictions such as angle of attack, altitude and speed.

Awards for top-scoring pilot, aircrew and aircraft in individual events and the top-scoring flight and wing were presented during an evening ceremony Aug. 19. [48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs – 22.08.2005]

### **USAF MILDENHALL (near Lakenheath, Suffolk)**

**British-donated rations en route to storm victims in South:** More than 25,000 rations donated by the British government to help with the U.S. hurricane relief effort left RAF Mildenhall on Tuesday morning on an American C-5A airplane headed to Little Rock, Ark., according to base officials.

In all, England is donating a half-million 24-hour ration packs — the British equivalent to a Meals, Ready to Eat — to help people displaced from their homes in Louisiana and Mississippi by Hurricane Katrina. According to some estimates, the U.K. contribution would be one ration for every person displaced by the storm.

British defense officials chartered 10 commercial jets to carry the rations to Arkansas and asked the United States for any help it could offer, said British Lt. Vicki Whales, an operations officer with the

Defense Logistics Organization, an arm of the British Defence Ministry that organized the flights.

The crew at Mildenhall got word Monday night that a C-5A plane would arrive from Ramstein, Germany, the next morning, so airmen worked all night to coordinate the move, said Stewart Campbell, a controller with the 727th Air Mobility Squadron.

The 27,300 ration packs, weighing about 120,000 pounds, were loaded onto the plane in less than an hour, Campbell said. They should arrive in Arkansas by Wednesday morning after a brief stop to refuel, he said.

Whales said the Defence Ministry is coordinating with U.S. officials to get one more plane to fly from Mildenhall and carry the last of the rations by the end of the week.

Whales said no British military planes were available for the effort.

“They're all tied up with operations [in Iraq and Afghanistan],” she said.  
[Stars & Stripes, European Edition, 07.08.2005]

### **USAF CROUGHTON (near Brackley, Northants)**

**Their Mission Statement is ‘Striving to be the premier provider of global communications services, while fostering a close-knit community based on quality of life, mutual respect and camaraderie.’**

Lindis Percy was violently 'arrested' when she was thrown to the ground, handcuffed and 'detained' by US 'security' personnel for three quarters of an hour, before being arrested by two Northamptonshire police officers for 'aggravated trespass' (s.68 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994). PC Katie Pearce (1267) and PC Ruth Marshall (74) were clearly taking instructions from the American personnel present. They refused to remove the US applied handcuffs and instead let the Americans call the tune.

Lindis had been openly on the base for nearly two hours without being noticed. Just before she left she pressed a buzzer by the US 'communications' center to identify herself and to let them know that she was leaving by the same way as she came in. Worryingly she did not see one 'security' patrol during the time she was walking on the base.

Before finally leaving by car, Lindis felt moved to go to the US guard post at the Main entrance to express sympathy about the aftermath of the recent terrifying hurricane in the US. She quietly spoke to the 'security' personnel for about four to five minutes about the outrage of the response and the fact that the US is the richest and most powerful country in the world; and yet the response was woefully inadequate and the US has had to ask the world for aid. She then turned away towards the Main exit gate and left.

It was at this point that as she was leaving, she was 'arrested and detained' by the US authorities. The Northampton Police officers told Lindis that the US personnel had told them that she had been handcuffed because she was 'resisting arrest'. At the highest level of the law Lindis was a civil trespasser.

Lindis was held in Northampton police station for nearly 14 hours. She was interviewed by two Ministry of Defence Police Agency (MDPA) officers before being bailed to return on 27 October 2005.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- US personnel on US bases in the UK have no powers of arrest in the UK.
- The Ministry of Defence Police Agency are in the process of setting up an office at USAF Croughton so reflecting the importance of this base.
- The MDPAs are paid for and under the operational control of the US authorities.

The US base Commander is Colonel D'Angelo and the RAF Liaison Officer is Flight Lieut. Clive Allen.

**High Court appeal dismissed:** Three cases were joined together in a 'case stated' appeal on 15/16 February 2005. They all arose following protests before and during the illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003; at USAF Croughton (Lindis), Marchwood Southampton (Greenpeace) and Val Swain (USAF Fairford) – refer to CAAB no: 28 for background

Lindis and the legal team have decided not to take this case up to the House of Lords.

## SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: Mr Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the financial agreement in place between the MOD Police Agency and the US authorities at RAF Menwith Hill for services rendered. [1298]

**A: Mr Ingram:** I am placing the information requested in the Library of the House. [19.07.2005]

**Q: Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the status of terrorist suspects held on military bases in Diego Garcia. [4827]

**A: Mr Ingram:** Terrorist suspects are not being held on Diego Garcia. [05.07.2005]

**Q: Lord Laird:** asked Her Majesty's Government: How much the United Kingdom owes to the United States for both the First and Second World Wars; whether they have sought to have the debts cancelled; and whether this will be a topic to be discussed at the G8 summit at Gleneagles. [HL977]

**A: Lord McKenzie of Luton:** On First World War debt due to the United States Government, I refer the noble Lord to the Answers given to him on 17 July 2002 (WA 159), 30 July 2002 (WA 161) 25 October 2002 (WA 103–104), 11 July 2003 (WA 66) and 19 January 2004 (WA 111). On Second World War debt due to the United States Government, I refer the noble Lord to the Answer I gave to him on 27 May 2002 (WA 127), January 2003 (WA 73) 11 July 2003 (WA 66) and 19 January 2004 (WA 111).

*Under a 1945 agreement, the United States Government lent the United Kingdom a total of \$4,336 million (around £1,075 million at 1945 exchange rates) in war loans. Repayment of the war loans to the United States Government should be completed on 31 December 2006, subject to the United Kingdom not choosing to exercise its option to defer repayment..*

*Currently principal of \$84 million is outstanding on the loans provided by the United States Government in 1945. The most recent repayments were made on 31 December 2004. There remain two more scheduled repayments of interest and principal sums of \$142 million in December 2005 and \$83 million in December 2006 that relate to previously deferred interest and principal payments.*

*Successive governments have undertaken, as with all external debt, to meet their obligations under the terms of the Second World War loan agreement with the US. The Government intend to meet their obligations under the 1945 agreement by repaying the United States Government in full the amounts lent in 1945.*

*A wide range of economic issues was discussed at the G8 Summit; the key areas of focus for the summit were Africa and climate change. [13.07.2005]*

**Q: Lord Garden:** asked Her Majesty's Government: What level of nuclear forces NATO must maintain in Europe to provide an essential political and military link between European and North American members of the alliance.

**A: Baroness Crawley:** *My Lords, all NATO's forces are maintained at a minimum level necessary. At any given time, that level is dependent on the current and foreseeable security environment. NATO's nuclear forces stationed in Europe have been reduced by more than 90 per cent since the end of the cold war. [07.07.2005]*

**Q: Lord Garden:** My Lords, I thank the noble Baroness for her somewhat opaque Answer, although it contrasts with her own Government's very open and transparent declaration of UK nuclear forces, which is what the reference was about. A recent report by a Washington institute, the US National Resources Defense Council, states that there are 480 nuclear bombs currently fielded by NATO in Europe—the same number as in 1994, no reductions—110 of which are based at RAF Lakenheath. Is it not time for us to be more open and to consider reducing those numbers?

**A: Baroness Crawley:** *My Lords, the noble Lord is right. The Government seek to be as open as possible about the UK's nuclear forces. However, he will also understand that some areas properly remain secret. The Government believe that, given its need to maintain security, NATO also is as open as it can be. Security is the principal reason for the long-standing, neither confirmed nor denied, policy with NATO. It is adhered to by NATO, the US and the UK, applying to location and numbers of nuclear weapons deployed. At present, we do not foresee a moment at which we would change that. [07.07.2005]*

**Q: Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many (a) US Army, (b) US Navy, (c) US Marines, (d) US Airforce, (e) US civilians and (f) US contractors are working at RAF Menwith Hill. [7813]

**A: Mr. Ingram:** *As of 1 June 2005 there were: 202 US Army personnel, 103 US Navy personnel, 34 US marines, 178 US Air Force personnel, 269 US Department of Defense civilians and 536 US contractors working at RAF Menwith Hill. [30.06.2005]*

**Q: Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many (a) GCHQ, (b) Ministry of Defence Police Agency, (c) Ministry of Defence Guarding Service, (d) Royal Air Force and (e) other UK personnel are working at RAF Menwith Hill. [7814]

**A: Mr. Ingram:** *As of 1 June 2005 there were 125 Ministry of Defence Police Agency personnel, 33 Ministry of Defence Guarding Service personnel, one Royal Air Force Officer and 231 other UK personnel working at RAF Menwith Hill. I am withholding the number of GCHQ personnel working at RAF Menwith Hill in accordance with Government policy of not commenting on intelligence matters. [30.06.2005]*

**Q: Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the planned expansion of facilities at RAF Menwith Hill. [7815]

**A: Mr. Ingram:** *A master plan covering the long-term development of RAF Menwith Hill is in the process of being produced by a joint UK/US team at RAF Menwith Hill. In order to maintain the operational effectiveness of the station it will be necessary to improve some of the ageing infrastructure on the site. This may lead to the demolition of some older buildings and their replacement by expanded modern facilities that, wherever possible, will be more in keeping with the rural landscape. There are no plans to alter the station's current role and mission. [30.06.2005]*

**Q: Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the payments made by the US Government for the use of the Menwith Hill base in North Yorkshire for each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement. [5263]

**A: Mr. Ingram:** *The US Government do not pay Her Majesty's Government for the use of RAF Menwith Hill, as the base is made available to the United States Visiting Force under the terms of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement 1951. [22.06.2005]*

**Q: Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision is made in the contract between his Department and the US authorities for the continuing use of Fylingdales. [6135]

**A: Mr. Ingram:** *The operation and maintenance of RAF Fylingdales is governed by an Exchange of Notes, under which the US provides the specialist equipment there while the UK operates and maintains the Station. The data produced by the radar at RAF Fylingdales are shared between the*

UK and the US under the terms of a UK-US Combined Operating Agreement. [21.06.2005]

**Q: Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK nuclear weapons are available for use by the Government; and how many US tactical nuclear weapons there are at RAF Lakenheath. [2335]

**A: John Reid:** In line with the policy set out in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review, the United Kingdom maintains a stockpile of less than 200 operationally available Trident warheads, 48 of which are onboard the single submarine on deterrent patrol.

On the issue of US nuclear weapons, NATO's Strategic Concept (paragraph 63) states that:

*"nuclear forces based in Europe and committed to NATO provide an essential political and military link between the European and North American members of the Alliance. The Alliance will therefore maintain adequate nuclear forces in Europe."*

Numbers of US nuclear weapons in the UK can and do vary, and the capability for deployments of such weapons to and from the UK remains extant regardless of the particular number of weapons in the UK at any given time.

It is NATO and national policy not to comment on the detail of such nuclear deployments. [08.06.2005]

### SNIPPETS

The new US Ambassador in London is Robert H Tuttle who arrived in July 2005.

### TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND INTERVIEW

#### Talks (since last newsletter):

- Leeds Stop the War Coalition
- Faringdon Peace Group
- Britain Yearly Meeting (Quakers) in Harrogate
- Hull and Pickering Monthly Meeting (Malton)
- Talk to Japanese/American group in Harrogate

#### Some of the interviews to press/media since last newsletter (mostly generated because of the ASBO/tagging and curfew):

- Yorkshire Post
- Sky News
- Calendar News
- Look North TV
- Hull Daily Mail
- Church Times
- MEDAC Journal
- Stay FM

- Bradford Telegraph and Argus
- BBC Radio Humberside
- BBC Radio Leeds
- BBC Radio York
- BBC Radio Scotland
- The Guardian
- Jeremy Vine Show
- Johnny Walker Show
- Hull in Print
- BBC Radio Belfast
- BBC Radio Ulster

### SHAKING THE BUCKET

Once again many thanks for all the contributions – especially to everyone who helped to bring Scott Ritter (former UN weapons Inspector) over from the US especially for 4 July demonstration. We could not do this work without your help.

### 2005 QUAKER MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

**USAF Menwith Hill:** Saturdays (even months) - 2005 - 1 Oct, and 3 Dec - from 2pm - 3pm outside the Main Entrance.

**Contact for Menwith Hill:** Anni: 01943 466405 or Lindis: 01482 702033

**'RAF' Fylingdales:** Saturdays (odd months) - 2005 - 5 Nov - from 12pm - 1pm outside the Approach Road Entrance at Fylingdales, Near Pickering, North Yorkshire Moors.

**Contact for Fylingdales:** Phone 01964 550410 e-mail [Chrisfellowes1@aol.com](mailto:Chrisfellowes1@aol.com)

**USAF Croughton:** Contact Rachel and Paul Milling email: [paul@milling.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:paul@milling.freeserve.co.uk)

**USAF Fairford:** Contact: Sue Fleming - 01285 641340

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**PLEASE NOTE:** The CAAB newsletter gives a taste of the work we do and the information we have gathered please refer to CAAB website

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..... With love and peace .....  
Anni and Lindis